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U. S. D. A. - ORGANIZER -

American Federation
of
Government Employees

Lodge 31 A.F.G.E.

Affiliated with
American Federation
of Labor

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THE ECONOMY DRIVE

It is now a commonly accepted belief that, regardless of the outcome of the November elections, the next Congress is going to be very much "economy-minded." In this connection one point should be emphasized, namely, legislators do not in general realize to what extent employees already have been penalized by withheld promotions.

We who are in the Department of Agriculture know only too well how many re-allocations have been held up for years because of inadequate appropriations.

But generally the legislators do not know this.

The best way to scotch an economy drive aimed at the salary checks of employees is to call to the attention of legislators the admittedly large number of cases deserving reallocation.

LODGE 31, through its members and non-members, will exert its influence not only to prevent wage-cuts, but also to gain deserved promotions. Any employee can assist in this task by presenting a specific case of deserved reallocation. He should (continued on the following page.

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write up his case briefly and send it to Martin Leatherman, Chairman of the Grievance Committee, Room 2148 South Bldg. All such cases sent will be treated as entirely confidential. Information gathered by Lodge 31 will be forwarded to the Central Office of the American Federation of Government Employees for use in presenting facts to legislators.

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JOIN THE GASOLINE COOPERATIVE!

In the last issue of the U.S.D.A. ORGANIZER we mentioned the cooperative activities of the Washington Consumers' Club, whose secretary is Mr. Fred Compton, 5512 7th. St., N. W., Telephone Georgia 2679. We now learn that the Club is sponsoring the establishment of a cooperative gasoline station which will operate on Rochdale principles. This means that every member will have one vote in the management of the organization, regardless of the number of shares he may purchase. In a cooperative, the man is more important than his money.

Shares sell at five dollars each. Membership blanks and further information may be obtained from Mr. Edwin M. Duerbeck, 1900 F St., N. W., Telephone Metropolitan 0540, Extension 701. Over 180 people, chiefly government employees, have already joined the gasoline co-op; the station will begin to operate when the membership has reached 300. Sales will be at prevailing prices, but surplus savings on the basis of patronage will be paid back to members at stated intervals. In any cooperative association, the members are the owners, and are thus entitled to use their profits in any way they may decide.

The cooperative is also planning to supply oil, tires, and accessories. Some of these items will be purchased from wholesale cooperatives, and all of them will be produced under fair labor conditions. Expansion to include other commodities may follow in a few months.

THE LABOR FRONT

Of local significance are the two labor disputes now current in Washington. The first, that of the Local Bakers' Union picketing against the Federal Bake Shops has been going on for over two years, during which time these shops have been continually picketed. There appears to be no prospect of immediate settlement of this dispute in which the Bake Shops have refused to use Union bakers. The other dispute, the strike of the Union Automobile mechanics against a number of shops who refuse to bargain with the union employees, is nearing settlement and will probably be settled to the employees' satisfaction within the next few weeks. Agriculture employees are urged to support organized labor by not patronizing any of the firms which are being picketed.

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USDA GRADUATE SCHOOL

The 1936-37 school year of the United States Department of Agriculture Graduate School will begin on September 14, 1936. Classes will meet at 4:45 p.m. in the Department building; the tuition will be \$12.00 a semester for two hour a week studies and \$15.00 for a three hour course. The work is organized on a standard college basis and credits earned have been accepted by graduate schools of accredited universities whenever they fit into the approved program of the students.

Among the courses offered are Wages and Economic Security, The Evolution of Economic Institutions, and Contemporary Economic Problems. A number of the courses deal in part with the labor problems. Further information relative to the courses offered by the Graduate School may be obtained by consulting Dr. A. F. Woods, Director of the Graduate School, Room 4090 South Building, U. S. D. A.

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JOIN LODGE 31 - 50 CENTS A MONTH

BOOK REVIEWS

HEARST: LORD OF SAN SIMEON

By: Oliver Carlson and Ernest Sutherland Bates. - The Viking Press. - \$3.00

That the reporting of news is capable of all the ruthless and piratical practices of any commercial enterprise is nowhere so clearly illustrated as in the life of William Randolph Hearst. Hearst was not a "self-made" phenomenon; as a young man he inherited a personal fortune of thirty or forty million-dollars and an egomaniac whimsy which with recurrent political and social disappointments, hardened into a very unlovely hypocrisy.

The success of Hearst enterprises has not been due to crusading vigor, but to the lavish expenditure of capital in buying "good-bets" - unbelievably large gold, silver, copper and forest holdings in the United States, Mexico, Peru and Chile (frequently the reason for the anti-Latin warlike strain of the Hearst papers); such precious objects d'art as Arthur Brisbane, whom he rendered impotent as a

thinker or idealist by a most dazzling salary check; Ambrose Bierce, who said that, while Mr. Hearst might be generous, he was never just; Fremont Older, and other lesser talent, some of them of probably greater pandering ability; and his news-reels, newspapers, magazines, radio stations, etc., which have consistently lowered themselves to the lowest popular denominator. Where capital outlays stopped, other rancorous devices stepped in - war scares and jingoism; falsification and forgery - including spurious documents; and, in the circulation field, the extorting of pennies from the news boys who sell his papers; blackmail - a good device for boosting circulation and advertising, and discrediting political opponents; and, on occasion, sheer vilification and scandal-mongering.

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Two things Hearst could not buy or blackmail his way into - the British aristocracy (and this, say the authors, plus his German and Irish reading public, is the explanation for his anti-British war attitude); and high public office. His complete political opportunism alienated Tammany, which slugged him out of public office, by a heart breakingly close margin. These disappointments, the authors conclude, have by now succeeded in dissipating any strain of idealism that might have been present in Hearst in his earlier years.

The kindest words that can be said for Hearst now is that he is an amoralist - uttering pious pro-labor platitudes while he resists unionization and enforces wage-cuts; affecting a high moral tone while he caters to the most lurid sensationalism; blowing hot and cold politically, and regionally; and posing as a defender of American democracy while hobnobbing with Hitler.

This life is an invaluable reminder to those who do not see the coloring put on the news by its transmitters, and even to some fairly critically-minded but compassionate people who are unwilling to imagine the lengths to which mendacity in reporting the news can go. In the campaign of popular education which may well have to be undertaken to save this country from going the way of European dictatorships, this is one of the most important lessons that can be learned.

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Editor's Note: This book review is merely a condensation of the more significant facts presented by the authors and is not intended as an exposition of the attitude of the reviewer. Perhaps more sensational disclosures will be found in reading "Imperial Hearst" by Ferdinand Lundberg (New York: Equinox Cooperative Press, \$2.75). This author describes Mr. Hearst and a rival Chicago publisher as the father of modern racketeering and present-day gang warfare; he describes the gun battles in the streets and alleges that Dion O'Bannion, one time lieutenant to Al Capone, was actually an employee of Hearst.

OUR JULY 2nd. LECTURE

At the last meeting of Lodge 31, Mr. Gilbert E. Hyatt, Legislative Representative, National Federation of Post Office Clerks, lectured on "WHY GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ORGANIZE." Mr. Hyatt said in substance that the problem of Government employees is the same as that of the workers in industry; Government employees are handed no gifts in the way of salary increases and improved working conditions from any altruistically-minded group of individuals; benefits of this nature have come after years of bitter struggle; and they have come through the efforts of the representatives of organized government employees, backed by the American Federation of Labor. Mr. Hyatt told the story of the postal employees who were the first to organize and fight for improved working conditions and as a result have gained the same in larger measure than the average of other government workers.

He also told how it happened that the decisive influence which gained for government employees their pay-cut restorations was exerted by the Railway Brotherhoods and the A. F. of L. These organizations in addressing legislators insisted that the government by instituting wage-cutting had set a precedent disastrous to employees in private industry and that until it changed this policy all employees would be adversely affected.

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The stronger your Union becomes, the more it can do for you, and the better able it is to represent your interests adequately. If each of us enrolled a new member each month for the next half year, we would soon have a powerful organization and the interests of Government employees would be more effectively taken care of than ever. There is someone in your office who is waiting for you to ask him to join. Go to it!

JOIN LODGE 31, A.F.G.E. TODAY!

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LODGE 31 MEETS

Thursday, August 6th, at 8:00 p.m. in Room 2050 South Agricultural Building.

EVERY MEMBER BRING A MEMBER!

INCREASING MEMBERSHIP

Since Lodges 121 and 170 joined with Lodge 31 there has been a steady growth in membership. We are now taking in now members at the rate of 30 to 40 a month. The whole A. F. G. E. organization is growing like Jack's beanstalk. When the first issue of the U.S.D.A. ORGANIZER was issued in May there were nearly 33,000 members. Now, on July 15, there are 35,500 members! Government employees in Washington and in the field are realizing that a strong organization for the expression of their problems is vitally necessary. Thus, this A. F. G. E. employee organization is becoming strong - 2,500 new members in two months proves it!

You should join this large group of your fellow workers. The initiation fee is 50 cents and the dues are only 50 cents a month, \$2.50 for six months or \$5.00 for a year. An application card may be obtained from Mr. C. C. Warren, Room 3718 South Building.

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We would welcome any articles or cartoons that you would like to contribute to the U.S.D.A. ORGANIZER.

Please send all contributions to Mr. C. C. Warren, Room 3718 South Building, U. S. Department of Agriculture.